BAD VENTILATION OF PLACES OF WORSHIP.—Few spectacles are perhaps more melancholy than those presented in cases such as these. The congregation is not unfrequently placed in an atmosphere of extreme impurity, poisonous in its tendency, arresting or interfering with some of the most important functions of life to such an extent, that they are occasionally suspended for a time, when a temporary death or fainting takes place. But what must the state of the mind have been, and how far was it beneficially occupied, in the devotional exercises in which it was previously engaged. The power of the clergyman is often reduced, as well as the attention of the congregation. Too often he does not recognise the darkness of the physical atmosphere that at times oppresses all his labours, and counteracts or diminishes his usefulness, as much by the power with which it subdues his own energies, as by the careless indifference which it encourages in his congregation. At the very moment that he may be descanting on the pernicious influence of vice, and pointing out the purifying power of that moral atmosphere which should surround the heart, how often are his labours shorn of their power by the physical poison that sometimes paralyzes the best intentions, the indications of which are manifest on the application of the most ordinary tests, and whose influence might be counteracted by means equally simple and efficacious.—*Reid on Ventilation.*

AGE AND EXTRAORDINARY SIZE OF AN OAK.—At about six miles W.S.W. of Saintes (in the Lower Charente), near the road to Cozes, stands an old oak tree, in the large court of a modern mansion, which still promises to live many centuries, if the axe of some Vandal does not cut it down. The following are the proportions of this king of the forests of France, and probably of all Europe:—

Diameter of the trunk at the ground	from 9 to 10 yards
Diameter at the height of a man ..	6½ to 7½
,, At the base of the principal branches	1 to 2
Diameter of the whole head	40 to 43
The height of the trunk	8
The general height of the tree ..	22

A room has been cut out of the dead wood of the interior of the trunk, measuring from 9 to 12 feet in diameter and 9 feet high, and with a circular seat cut out of the solid wood. A round table is put in the middle when it is wanted, round which twelve guests can sit. A door and a window admit daylight into this new sort of dining-room, which is adorned by a living carpet of ferns, fungi, lichens, &c. Upon a plate of wood taken from the trunk, about the height of the door, 200 concentric and annual rings have been counted, whence it results, in taking a horizontal radius from the exterior circumference to the centre of the oak, that there must have been from 1800 to 2000 of these rings, which makes its age nearly 2000 years.—*Annales de la Société d'Agriculture de la Rochelle.*

BRIDGEWATER CANAL.—Preparations are making for carrying on an extensive trade in salt between the mines, at Northwich, in Cheshire, and the port of Hull, through the medium of the Manchester and Leeds, the Leeds and Selby, and the Selby and Hull railways. This communication, it is said, is to be completed by converting the Duke of Bridgewater's canal, which was constructed about the year 1760, under the direction of Mr. Brindley, the engineer, into a line of railway from the salt mines to Manchester, to join the railways passing eastwards and communicating with the German Ocean.—*Leeds Mercury.*

At a meeting of the Five Districts Societies of St. Marylebone, held at the Court-house, Wednesday, April 24, present, the Rev. Dr. Spry, in the chair, the reports from the several districts were read, from which it appeared that, during the past year, 3,801 persons had been relieved by their visitations, and the sums distributed amounted to 1,395*l.* 0*s.* 1½*d.*

TRAFALGAR-SQUARE.—The whole of the terrace-walks within the area of the above promenade are completed, and this square will be opened to the public on Monday next.—*Globe.*

Current Prices of Metals.

April 19, 1844.

		£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
SPELTER.—Foreign ton ..		22	15	0 to	23	0	0
,,	For delivery..	0	0	0 —	22	5	0
ZINC—English sheet		0	0	0 —	30	0	0
QUICKSILVER	per lb.				0	4	6
IRON—English bar, &c.....	per ton				6	0	0
,, Nail rods.....		0	0	0 —	6	15	0
,, Hoops		0	0	0 —	8	0	0
,, Sheets		0	0	0 —	9	0	0
,, Cargo in Wales ..		5	5	0 —	5	10	0
,, Pig, No. 1, Wales		3	15	0 —	4	0	0
,, No. 1, Clyde		3	5	0 —	3	10	0
,, For.. Swedish		9	15	0 —	10	0	0
,, Russian. CCND.....					16	10	0
STEEL—Swedish keg. p. ton		18	10	0 —	19	0	0
,, ,, Faggot..		0	0	0 —	19	0	0
COPPER—English sheathing.	per lb.	—			0	0	9½
,, Old.....	ditto.				0	0	8½
,, Cake p. ton....		0	0	0 —	84	10	0
,, Tile		0	0	0 —	83	0	0
,, S. American ..		0	0	0 —	75	0	0
TIN—English, blocks, &c.	cwt.....				3	13	0
,, ,, bars		0	0	0 —	3	14	6
,, Foreign, Banca		0	0	0 —	3	10	0
,, ,, Straits....		0	0	0 —	3	6	0
,, ,, Peruvian..		0	0	0 —	3	0	0
Tin plates, No. IC. p. box		1	6	0 —	1	10	0
,, ,, No. IX.....		1	12	0 —	1	16	0
,, wasters 3s. p. box less							
LEAD—Sheet milled	per ton				17	15	0
,, Shot, patent		0	0	0 —	19	15	0
,, Red.....					21	10	0
,, White.....					23	10	0
PIG-LEAD—English		0	0	0 —	17	0	0
,, Spanish		0	0	0 —	16	10	0
,, American ..		0	0	0 —	16	5	0

SHORT and MAHONY, *Brokers*,
1, *Newman's-court, Cornhill.*

Tenders.

TENDERS delivered for Houses to be built in Grove-street, South Hackney, for Mr. Parr.—Mr. Parkinson, Architect. April 18, 1844.

Hancock.....	£1,324 0 0
Nicholson	1,236 0 0
Burgess	1,226 0 0
Ryder and Son	1,200 0 0
Norris.....	1,197 0 0
Hurt	1,129 7 9

TENDERS delivered for an Hotel to be built at Hockly Spa, near Southend, for James Fawcett, Esq.—John Lockyer, Esq., Architect.

Joseph Wilson.....	£1,848 10 0
Mr. Stevenson	1,882 0 0
Mr. Cumming	1,903 0 10
Mr. Matthews	1,989 0 0

NOTICES OF CONTRACTS.

For the erection of a Bridge at Hilton, in the parish of Woofield, Salop, and also for lowering and improving the upper part of Hilton Hill.—Plans, &c., at Mr. Stokes, Shipley. May 8.

For the erection of a Theatre at Wolverhampton,—Drawings, &c., at the Peacock Inn, Wolverhampton. Mr. Tichborne, Wolverhampton. May 6.

For re-building the Western Pier of the Humber Dock Basin, and the removal of the present Pier included, or to be provided for in a separate tender, as may be most convenient.—Secretary to the Dock Company at Kingston-upon-Hull. Plans, &c., at Mr. Michael Lane's, Engineer, Castle-street, Hull. May 20.

For Warming and Ventilating the new Workhouse at Aylesbury.—The Guardians of Aylesbury Union, Bucks. Plans of the Building at the Office of Messrs. Savage and Foden, Architects, 31, Essex-street, Strand. May 1.

For works required in the enlargement of the Reigate Union Workhouse at Redhill.—Plans, &c., at the Board-room. Mr. Thomas Hart, Clerk to the Guardians. May 6.

For repairs and alterations of the Branch Bank, Aylesbury.—G. H. Taylor, Esq., Architect, 22, Parliament-street, Westminster, and 22, Queen-street, City; or at the Branch Bank, Aylesbury. April 29.

For altering and completely finishing the carcasses of two Houses in Middleton-road, Queen's-road, Dalston.—Mr. James Clark, 4, Richmond-Terrace, Queen's-road, Dalston.

For building an Union House, at Lock's Bottom, Farnborough, Kent:—Mr. Henry Nottingham, Clerk to the Guardians, Keston, Kent. Plans, &c., at Messrs. Savage and Foden's, Architects, 31, Essex-street, Strand. May 10.

For the erection of a Cast-iron Bridge, with brick piers and approaches, at Somersham, Hants. G. Thomson, Esq., Somersham. April 29.

For Bricklayer's and Mason's Work in making certain alterations in the front of the Ipswich Savings' Bank.—Mr. J. M. Clark, Architect Brook-street. April 30.

For the erection of an Iron Bridge of one arch, of one hundred and ten feet span, intended to be built over the river Avon, at Bath.—P. George, Esq., Town Clerk, Bath.—Drawings, &c., at G.P. Manners, Esq., Architect, No. 1, Oxford-row, Bath. May 31.

For the several Repairs to the Barber's Hall and Buildings adjoining Monkwell-street, City.—Specification at the Hall. Further particulars of Messrs. Closs and Son, Surveyors, &c., 33, Clement's-lane, City. April 30, 1844.

For building a House, Shed, Cellarage, and Vaulting.—Mr. Bellingham, near the bridge, Great Cambridge-street, Haggerstone. Mr. Catling, Architect. May 2.

For erection of a new Union Workhouse at Highland's Farm, in the parish of Cuckfield, Sussex.—Particulars, Plans, &c., of Mr. T. Wisden, Hampton-place, Western-road, Brighton. May 10.

ERRATA.

In the diagrams from No. 1 to 5 inclusive, inserted last week, illustrating Smith's Weather-tight Sill-bars, Fastenings, Revolving Shutters, &c., the engraver neglected to reverse the subjects on the wood-blocks, so that right and left hand are changed.

Page 205, 2nd column, line 15 from bottom, after "The difference," add "is unknown."

TO OUR CORRESPONDENTS.

"Your Reader from the First."—*We refer to page 71.*

"Mr. Charles Newnham."—*We have not so much fear as our correspondent on the subject of the proposed new Building-Act. Among many complaints made by him, we do not think valid his objection to having slabs 18 inches wider than chimney-openings; this requirement would be not burthensome, and would be serviceable. Indeed, we think a chimney-slab cannot, for safety, be too large. Whether chimneys be worn or not by machines (which we think does not necessarily follow), humanity requires that chimney-climbing be forbidden, and that if a few chimney-sweeps may at present be compelled to seek other employment, that is not a sufficient reason for perpetuating any thing so abominable. We think it much less humane to force young parish apprentices up narrow, sooty, and sometimes burning chimneys, than to leave "to starve," as our correspondent says, such few chimney-sweeps, if there be any, which we doubt, who prefer starving to obtaining a livelihood in some calling more wholesome and cleanly. With some of the other matters of our correspondent's letter we agree.*

We have under consideration "Hints for a Design for a Cemetery Cathedral," *the Cambridge Font-cover, and the Grecian Design for a School.*

We have received the beautiful window of Thornbury Church, and will publish it as it is if our correspondent cannot procure draughts of its jambs, mullions, label, saddle-bars, &c.

Our two correspondents' questions relative to "Tudor" Arches, *will be answered in our next.*

MEETINGS OF SCIENTIFIC BODIES,

To-day and during the ensuing week.

SATURDAY, APRIL 27.—*Royal Botanic*, Regent's-park, 4 P.M.; *Westminster Medical*, 32, Sackville-street, 8 P.M.

MONDAY, 29.—*British Architects*, 16, Lower Grosvenor-street, 8 P.M.; *Medical*, Bolt-court, Fleet-street, 8 P.M.; *Zoological*, 57, Pall Mall, 3 P.M. (anniversary.)

TUESDAY, 30. — *Civil Engineers*, 25, Great George-street, 8 P.M.; *Free-Masons of the Church*, adjournment of the 17th Chapter, 8 P.M.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 1.—*Society of Arts*, Adelphi, 8 P.M.; *Geological*, Somerset House, 8½ P.M.; *Horticultural*, 21, Regent-street, 3 P.M. (anniversary); *Royal Institution*, Albemarle-street, 8½ P.M. (anniversary).

THURSDAY, 2. — *Royal*, Somerset House, 8½ P.M.; *Antiquaries*, Somerset House, 8 P.M.

FRIDAY, 3. — *Royal Institution*, Albemarle-street, 8½ P.M.; *Botanical*, 20 Bedford-street, Covent Garden, 8 P.M.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

BREWING and WASHING COPPERS and COPPER WARES of all descriptions, 92 and 93, Houndsditch.—LAVER and SON, Manufacturers of Stills, Sugar Pans, Dyers' and Melters' Coppers; also every variety of minor Utensils for Chemists, Confectioners, Victualers, Varnish Makers, &c., at prices that cannot fail to give satisfaction. Copper Work made to drawing, or repaired. Price of Brewing Coppers 1s. 1d. per lb.; Washing Coppers 1s. 2d. per lb.; with suitable allowance to the Trades.

Improved Green-house Boilers and Steam Apparatus in general.

To learn how to use OCR and PDF Compression go to ThePaperlessOffice.org